POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia is keen to set up a power plant in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Mr. Ralph Evans, Managing Director, Austrade and Australian Government organisation has moved the centre in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) by when the Central Government propose to give clearance to Austrade application?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Australia has of late evinced interest in expanding the scope of Indo-Australian Cooperation in the power seetor. However, the Government has not received any proposal from Australia for the setting up of a power plant in Tamil Nadu.

Units engaged in Diamond Processing Industry

2617. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of diamond processing units at present in the country and the number of persons employed therein;

(b) what is the amount of capital invested in this industry;

(c) quantum of exports of gems and jewellery during the last three years, year-wise, and foreign exchange earned during the same period; and

(d) steps being taken to boost exports in view of the current economic situation of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The diamond industry is scattered and extends to rural areas with a substantial segment in the unorganised sector. No census has been conducted of the extent of employment provided by this industry. The capital investment varies from unit to unit depending on the technology and the extent of mechanisation. No consolidated figures of the total capital employed in the industry are available.

(c) The foreign exchange earned from export of gems and jewellery during the last three years has been as follows:—

Year	Rs. Crores
1988-89	4565.28
1989-90	5479.37
1990-91	5336.83

Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

(d) Government has taken a series of measures to enchance exports which, *inter alia,* include replenishment facility for diamond exporters to obtain rough diamonds, facility for opening of dollar account, repeal of the Gold Control Act and direct access to gold import for jewellery exporters.

Upgradation of Joint Chief Controller of Exim

2618. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the last Pay Commission recommednded upgradation of existing posts of Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay to that of Directors in order to give more avenues of promotion to Central Trade Service; and

(b) whether these recommendations were considered and approved by Ministry of Finance and a notification to this effect was issued and placed on the Table of the Parliament; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Keeping in view the cadre structure of the CTS and the work load of the regional offices at Bom-

bay, Calcutta, Madras & Delhi, the 4th Central Pay Commission had recommended that posts of Jt. Chief Controller of Imports & Exports in these four offices may be given the pay scale of Rs. 4500—5700.

(b) To give effect to these recommendations, necessary orders placing the posts of JCCI&E in the regional offices at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi in the scale of pay of Rs. 4500—5700 w.e.f. 1.1.86 were issued *vide* Ministry of Finance's Notification No. F. 15(7)IC/86, dated 13.3.87.

Recommendations of Committee for Covering of Export Promotion Activities

2619. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Trade Fair Authority of India to create an Umbrella organisation to cover export promotion activities of TFAI, TDA, FIEO, Export Promotion Councils; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made, so far, by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Committee has not given its recommendations so far.

Trade Agreement or Protocol with USSR

2620. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Trade Agreement or Protocol entered with USSR for 1991 together with quantities and values of products involved; and

(b) whether similar Trade Protocols for 1992 are likely to be entered either jointly or separately with the USSR or the Russian Federation and other erstwhile USSR States, if so, what are the details of quantum of export-import, value and quantity of each product involved, period of validity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Trade Protocol entered into with USSR for 1991 provides for import from USSR of Rs. 43300 million and export to USSR of Rs. 50810 million. The items of import from USSR include machinery equipment and spares, crude oil and petroleum products, fertilisers, chemicals and pharmaceutical products, steel products, nonferrous metals etc. and the items for export to USSR include agricultural products, minerals and ores, chemicals and allied products, leather and leather manufactures, textiles, engineering goods etc.

(b) Efforts are being made to sign Trade Protocols for 1992 with the Soviet Union and its Republics as early as possible. The actual details about this Protocol would be available only after the Trade Protocols are signed.

Indo-Mauritius Trade

2621. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether areas have been identified for the expansion of Indo-Mauritius trade;

(b) if so, what are these areas;

(c) whether any trade relation have been established in the past;

(d) if so, the fields in which Indo-Mauritius trade started in the past; and

(e) what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These include auto components, bicycles, and parts, toilet articles/cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals plastics, wheat/wheat flour, books leather and leather products, household appliances, travel goods, etc.

(c) to (e) Trade relations between the two countries are centuries old. Trade in